ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

. . MINUTES . .

—OF THE—

. . FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION . .

—OF THE—

Wills Creek

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

Corinth Church, DeKalb Co., Ala.,

ON SEPT. 29TH AND 30TH AND OCT. 1ST, 1893.

———:o:———

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

J. B. FRANKLIN, - - - - - MODERATOR.
J. H. E. GUEST, - - - - CLERK.

———:o:———

COLLINSVILLE, ALA.,
PRINTED AT CLIPPER JOB OFFICE.
1893.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
LYRASIS Members and Sloan Foundation

http://www.archive.org/details/minutesoffiftyfi00will

THE CAUSE OF A REORGANIZATION OF THE WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

——:o:——

Which was constituted in 1836, and declared to be a Primitive Baptist Association in 1840. Her resolutions were as follows:

ARTICLE 26. That this Association will not fellowship any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday School Union Societies, or advocate State Conventions or Theological schools, or any other society that has been, or may hereafter be founded, under the pretense of circulating the Gospel of Jesus Christ; nor correspond with any Association engaged, or supporting any of the above named institutions, they being without a "thus saith the Lord" for them.

In 1843 there was a query brought into the Association by one of the churches, as follows: How shall we receive those who have gone off with the Missionary Baptist? Answer—By Recantation. Secondly—How shall we receive those who have been received by Missionaries since our separation from them? Answer—In the good old way, by experience and baptism.

From which resolutions and practice there has been a departure, the churches receiving members from other Baptists on what they call confession of faith without baptising them, and some of the churches being unwilling to renounce the practice, and to return to former principles, caused a division of the Association.

Therefore we, a portion of the church of the said Association, being unwilling to conform to the practice in which she has fallen, believing it to be unscriptural, and not according to primitive practice. Therefore, deeming it necessary to re-organize the Wills Creek Association upon former faith and practice, met with the church at Macedonia, Jackson county, Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1880, at which time and place the Association was organized by the election of Elder J. B. Franklin, Moderator, T. M. K. Galloway, Clerk; and after transacting the business necessary to come before the body, adjourned to meet with the church at Black Oak, Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1880.

PROCEEDINGS.

—o—

1. Elder James Massey came forward and delivered the Introductory Sermon from the following text: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk ye in him."—Col., 2d chapter, 6th verse.

2. Intermission of one hour.

3. The messengers then convened at the house. Prayer by the Moderator.

4. Called for letters from the several churches which were read and received. (See table.)

5. Extended an opportunity for churches desiring admission into our body. Received Macedonia church by petitionary letter and delegates.

6. The Association organized by electing Elder J. B. Franklin, Moderator, and J. H. E. Guest, Clerk.

7. Invited ministers and brethren of our faith to seats. Received G. A. Blevins and S. Tinker from Sequachee Valley Association.

8. Appointed a committee to arrange preaching during the meeting to-wit: T. B. Clark, D. B. Norwood and G. W. Gilbreath, with the delegate from Corinth.

9. Appointed a committee to arrange the business to come before the Association to-wit: W. W. Downs, Jas. Pendegrass, J. J. Gilliland, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

10. Appointed a committee on Finance, to-wit: T. C. Haynes and J. M. Fricks.

11. Called for Correspondence. Received none.

12. The Association then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—SATURDAY MORNING 9 O'CLOCK.

1. The Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder A. Graves.

2. Called the roll. All present.

3. Called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements. Report received and committee discharged.

4. Called for the reading of the Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

5. Invited ministers and brethren of our faith to seats. Received G. A. Blevins and S. Tinker from Sequachee Valley Association.

6. Agreed that our next Union meeting be held with Pine Grove church, three miles southeast of Collinsville, Ala., convening on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1894.

7. Agreed that our next Association be held with Red Hill church, four miles southwest of Lebanon, Ala., convening on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1894.

8. Called for the report of the Committee on Finance. Received from the several churches, brethren and friends $11.50. Committee discharged.

9. The Association grants Shoal Creek church her request in regard to withdrawing her request made in 1892 to reinstate Elder J. T. Perry, who is now excluded from us. Holding his credentials, therefore, we do not consider his work as a minister legal in the future.

10. Agreed that we grant Shoal Creek her request, to the effect that we do not fellowship secret institutions.

11. Appointed a committee to examine the records of our Association book as to its completeness, and report at our next association, brethren to-wit: T. C. Haynes, A. Graves and J. A. Harrison.

12. Agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of our minutes and that we have 600 struck.

13. The Association tenders its thanks to Corinth church and vicinity for the kind hospitality shown its members during the meeting. We then adjourned to the time and place appointed.

J. B. Franklin, Moderator.

J. H. E. Guest, Clerk.

DECLARATION OF FAITH OF WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is not able, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself therefrom.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ imputed to them.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace in Christ, and that God, according to his own foreknowledge, purpose and grace, choose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and belief of the truth.

6. We believe the saints will preserve in, and be preserved by grace and never finally fall away nor be lost.

7. We believe that Baptism and the sacrament of the Lord's supper, and washing of the saint's feet are ordinances of divine worship; and the proper legal communicants, persons born of the Spirit and baptized by legal administrator, and the true scriptural mode of performance is to bury the body all over in water, and that true believers are the only fit subjects.

8. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel except such as are legally baptized, called and ordained, by laying on the hands and prayer by a Presbytery.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, general judgment, and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

—o—

RULES OF DECORUM BY WHICH THE ASSOCIATION IS TO BE GOVERNED.

1. The members regularly chosen by the churches shall compose the Association.

2. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of the churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Wills Creek Primitive Baptist Association.

4. The association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk,

chosen by the suffrages of the members present by ballot, and the person to preach the Introductory sermon.

5. Any church belonging to the association shall be entitled to three representatives and no more.

6. Any church desiring admittance into this association shall petition by letter and delegates, and being found orthodox, shall be received by the association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

7. This association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any internal rights of the churches.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to vote, unless withdrawn by the one that made it, and a majority shall in all cases, decide.

9. Every member who speaks in a debate shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

10. The appellation of Brother or Brethren shall be used in all our addresses to each other.

11. No member shall be permitted to speak more than three times in debate on any subject without leave from the association.

12. No query shall be taken under consideration by the association, except serious cases of difficulty are likely to arise which cannot be settled by the church nor by the help of any other church which she may call upon; then, if not settled, she may send it to the association.

13. No member shall absent himself from the association without leave of the association.

14. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the association arises.

15. Any amendment or alteration may be made to these rules, as to form of government, at any time when a majority of the members of the association may deem expedient.

Statistical Table.

Churches.	Delegates.	Minister.	Post Office.	Baptized.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	Contributions.	Sabbath of Meeting.
Black Oak...	J J Gilliland, J M Fricks, W Cook..	Wm Cook, Y A Fricks*	Grove Oak.....	2	1	..	..	21	$1 00	2nd
Corinth. . .	R Wilks, S H King, J W Thurman	Lambert.....	Black Oak.....	21	..	..	1	54	2 00	1st
Shoal Creek..	J A Harrison, W S Dowdy, W Tucker	J A Harrison, W S Dowdy	Whiton..	4	..	4	.	21	1 00	4th
Mt. Pleasant.	A Graves, G W Gilbreth, J Thompson	A Graves*.	Collinsville	5	..	..	..	28	1 00	2nd
Mt. Zion.....	J H E Guest, T C Haynes, S Peck...	T C Haynes.....	Luna.....	1	..	..	1	34	1 50	2nd
Red Hill.....	J B Franklin, A Pendegrass, L H Peak	J B Franklin*.....	Andrews Instit'e	2	..	..	..	27	1 50	3rd
Pine Grove..	D B Norwood, W W Downs	Wm Oliver*.	Collinsville..	6	3	1	..	31	1 00	4th
Little Creek	James Massey.....	James Massey*.... ..	Seaborn	2	..	..	..	7	75	1st
Macedonia...	J W L Scott, F L Little, J B Clark.	J H Chatman H T Blevins	Ider.....	..	..	..	..	74	2 00	4th
	Total.....	....	....	49	4	5	2	297	$11 75	....

Ordained ministers marked *.

Red Hill received one member by letter.